



Mesa County Attorney's Office

P.O. Box 20,000

Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5004

(970) 244- 1612 • FAX (970) 255-7196

September 4, 2012

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 1736
P. O. Box 55819
Boston MA 02205-5819

RE: Your records request dated August 26, 2012

Dear Mr. Shawn Musgrave:

As per our county's usual records procedure, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office ("MCSO") has contacted our office with regard to your request for records dated August 26, 2012. I've enclosed a copy of the MCSO's CORA ("Colorado Open Records Act") policy as a courtesy.

Regarding your request in paragraph #1, the MCSO has no documents that satisfy your request as none of those items are applicable to the MCSO's drone.

Regarding your request in paragraph #2, the only document the Mesa County Sheriff's Office currently has that would be responsive would be the MCSO Unmanned Aircraft Operations Manual. Mesa County is currently in the process of drafting a written policy for the use of our unmanned aircraft.

Regarding your requests in paragraph #3, with regard to sub-paragraph (a), Primarily the drones have been used for search and rescue missions; searching for fugitives primarily in open areas; surveillance of crimes-in-progress, and aerial crime-scene photography. The MCSO has no plans to manage or oversee the use of drones by another department or office or loan our drones to another department or office. If needed and appropriate, the MCSO would offer outside agency assistance. We are required to seek approval from the FAA to assist agencies outside of our county.

Regarding your paragraph 3(b), the only applicable storage guidelines would be the standard evidence retention guidelines used by the MCSO for all evidence.

Regarding your paragraph 3(c), the MCSO follows the guidelines in our operations manual referred to above. But essentially, the drones do not fly above 400 feet above the ground as required by the FAA.

MuckRock News

September 4, 2012

Page 2

Regarding your paragraph 3(d), the MCSO drones do not have the capacity to carry weapons, nor do we have any plans to develop that capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Barnes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Angela Barnes

Assistant County Attorney

XC: MCSO; Mesa County Attorney's Office